

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ for the manufacture of sodium carbonate monohydrate crystals comprising ~~the following stages~~:

a) the addition of sodium carbonate to an aqueous solution comprising sodium bicarbonate and sodium carbonate, in order to form an aqueous suspension;

b) the crystallization and the separation of sodium sesquicarbonate crystals ~~starting~~ from the aqueous suspension, in order to obtain sesquicarbonate crystals, on the one hand, and an aqueous mother liquor, on the other hand;

c) the crystallization and the separation of sodium carbonate monohydrate crystals ~~starting~~ from the aqueous mother liquor,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the amount of sodium carbonate added in stage a) is adjusted so that sodium sesquicarbonate solubility is exceeded, and so that the crystallization of sesquicarbonate crystals in stage b) can be carried out without preliminary evaporation of the aqueous suspension.

2. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the sodium carbonate added to the aqueous solution is solid sodium carbonate originating from the calcination of trona.

3. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the aqueous solution comprises an aqueous extraction liquor ~~originating from pumping into~~ pumped out of a trona deposit.

4. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the amount of sodium carbonate added to the aqueous solution is such that its content of sodium carbonate is between 31 and 37% by weight.

5. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to ~~the preceding claim~~ Claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the amount of sodium carbonate added to the aqueous solution is such that its content of sodium carbonate is between 33 and 36% by weight.

6. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the sodium sesquicarbonate separated in stage b) is subsequently calcined.

7. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising adding sodium carbonate ~~is added~~ to the aqueous mother liquor resulting from stage b).

8. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising extracting impurities ~~are extracted~~ from the aqueous mother liquor between stages b) and c), before the crystallization of the sodium carbonate monohydrate.

9. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the separation of sodium carbonate crystals from the mother liquor in c) provides said crystals and an aqueous liquor, and wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a portion of the aqueous mother liquor ~~resulting from stage e)~~ is added to the aqueous solution during stage a).

10. (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the crystallization of sesquicarbonate crystals in b) is carried out without preliminary evaporation of the aqueous suspension.

11. (New) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the sodium carbonate added to the aqueous solution is solid sodium carbonate originating from the calcination of trona.

12. (New) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the aqueous solution comprises an aqueous extraction liquor pumped out of a trona deposit.

13. (New) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the amount of sodium carbonate added to the aqueous solution is such that its content of sodium carbonate is between 31 and 37% by weight.

14. (New) The process according to Claim 13, wherein the amount of sodium carbonate added to the aqueous solution is such that its content of sodium carbonate is between 33 and 36% by weight.

15. (New) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the sodium sesquicarbonate separated in b) is subsequently calcined.

16. (New) The process according to Claim 10, further comprising adding sodium carbonate to the aqueous mother liquor resulting from b).

17. (New) The process according to Claim 10, further comprising extracting impurities from the aqueous mother liquor between b) and c), before the crystallization of the sodium carbonate monohydrate.

18. (New) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the separation of sodium carbonate crystals from the mother liquor in c) provides said crystals and an aqueous liquor, and wherein a portion of the aqueous liquor resulting from c) is added to the aqueous solution during a).

19. (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the crystallization of sodium sesquicarbonate crystals from the aqueous suspension is accomplished by maturation at a temperature of 30-32 °C.

20. (New) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the crystallization of sodium sesquicarbonate crystals from the aqueous suspension is accomplished by maturation at a temperature of 30-32 °C.